

The Upper Ferry. The Eastern Shore is one of the few places in the world where flatboat ferries are still operating. It is a credit to the vision of the Wicomico County officials that they preserve these examples of a past transportation that was, for a century, a basic part of American life. There are two in the county today and both are operated as county facilities without charge to the motorist, except when used on holidays. The boat at the Upper Ferry is a steel craft of modern make. However, except in its material, it duplicates the historic wooden scow of the past eras. It runs on a cable and is moved by an outboard motor. It is in operation daily, from sunrise until sunset, except Saturday, when it closes at 1 p.m. Its popularity can be judged by the fact that during the summer it carries 75 to 100 cars a day and the ferryman has noted that many of these are out-of-State vehicles, indicating that motorists may even go out of their way to avail themselves of a ride on such a unique craft. The ferryman, Gilbert Townsend, whose grandfather operated the business before him, adds a great deal to the atmosphere of the ride by his friendly willingness to discuss time and change with his customers. Thanks to him, one feels again that one has been somewhere.

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Upper Ferry